Edwards, Michelle

From:

Nasser.Karrum

Sent:

Wednesday, October 26, 2016 3:49 PM

To:

Bennett, Duke A; Azar, George; Auler, Amy; Morris, Don; DeBaun, Curtis; Nation, Todd;

Crossen, Martha; Elliott, Earl; Garrison, Neil

Cc: Subject: Edwards, Michelle; Ellis, Leslie

Re: re: 2017 Budget

FILED

OCT 26 2016

Mayor

CITY CLERK

Just speaking for myself, I remember in January when I asked you specifically at a council meeting what the role of the council was during the budget process you said and I quote "the role of the council is by state statue to approve or disapprove the budget". It seems you are wanting it both ways. You don't want the council to micro manage the administration, but when there are concerns over a deficit budget you want the council to fix it. I am looking forward to what you have to say about this tomorrow.

Thanks Karrum

From: Bennett, Duke A

Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 2:37 PM

To: Azar, George; Auler, Amy; Morris, Don; DeBaun, Curtis; Nation, Todd; Crossen, Martha; Elliott, Earl; Nasser, Karrum;

Garrison, Neil

Cc: Edwards, Michelle; Ellis, Leslie

Subject: re: 2017 Budget

All,

As you know the 2017 budget we submitted provided our first run at creating a fundable budget. Overall it included many individual department or activity budget decreases and only a few increases that were primarily driven by bargaining agreements or necessary activities.

Last week we submitted several budget reductions. These changes were primarily the result of reducing some previously identified line items that needed further review after we submitted the original budget. Those changes discussed in the last budget meeting have already been entered into Gateway (except the GF – Fire Department changes that we will do after the EMS N/R fund Ordinance is updated).

Over the past few days we have reviewed several additional line items and made some decisions about planned activities in 2017 that will provide additional budget cuts that coupled with last week's cuts that ultimately total \$2,829,450. Attached you will find those cuts. Those changes have already been entered into Gateway so that we can provide updated budget forms for tomorrow night.

It is disappointing to hear that "some" members of the council are publicly saying to vote against the budget and lose tax revenue without offering any cuts or seeing the final budget. No phone calls, no visits, and no emails with realistic suggestions or recommended cuts during this whole budget process. I have even heard a couple of council persons say it is not their problem to solve. That is not true as we all have a hand in the process. City Councils all across the state make budget cut recommendations and negotiate the outcomes.

I will have much more to say about this tomorrow night.

Mayor Duke A Bennett